

REFLECTIONS OF GERARD "JERRY" L. RISPONE

MY ANCESTORS EMIGRATED FROM ITALY TO the United States in the early 1900s and settled in Louisiana. The first generation worked in the farming industry with many in the subsequent generations working in construction as electricians. Being the youngest of seven children, born to parents in their mid-forties, I had the opportunity to be involved in a multi-generational family, as I have brothers with children in my age group. And, not only a multi-generational family, but also one with a special needs member, my brother, Jimmy, 1 ½ years older than me has Down syndrome. With our family dynamic, I learned so much from my mother about patience, and how to look for the best in people, and about building relationships. My father was a machinist by trade, but farming was in his blood, so I had the opportunity to work and learn from him working on our small farm in the

rural town of Central, La. I learned first-hand about hard work and integrity from my father working on that farm. I also learned that farming wasn't for me.

So, I thought I would follow the footsteps of many of my brothers, uncles and cousins and become an electrician until my senior year of high school when I met and began dating the young lady who would become my wife. She encouraged me to consider attending LSU and pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering while she pursued a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. Having been only the second in my family to attend college and the first to pursue electrical engineering, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. To say the least, during my years at LSU I had to employ the work ethic that I had learned on the farm to the rigor of the curriculum.

Just a few short years after graduation, at the age



of 27, funded by the salaries that my wife and I had made as a result of our LSU Engineering degrees, I was able to embark on a business opportunity to be a co-founder of ISC with two partners, one being my brother, Eddie. From our first days in business, we have recruited associates from the LSU College of Engineering, in either Electrical Engineering or Construction Management, with two of our first associates and current Executive Vice Presidents being my former LSU classmates. I firmly believe that the work ethic needed to succeed in LSU's College of Engineering is a common thread of the success of its graduates and a cornerstone of the success of ISC.

In my now nearly 25 years at ISC, I have tried to emulate the values of my parents. I believe that great businesses, like great people, have a core belief system. Every day and in every way, I try to

foster consistency of character into our team at ISC. My parents have now passed, but I believe that they have not only touched my life but also so many others through my association at ISC. I highly value each of our associates and the talents they share with the company.

I am greatly honored to be selected to receive this recognition, and I accept it on behalf of all those who have been a part of my success especially my wife, Bronwen, my best friend, and the outstanding mother to our two remarkable children, Lane and Blair, who are currently continuing the legacy by pursuing degrees in the College of Engineering. LSU and the College of Engineering is a thread woven into the fabric of our lives. LOVE PURPLE, LIVE GOLD, FOREVER LSU!